Special Issue: Coming Events
WHAT IS THE Seventh-day Adventist mission in the world? And what kind of philosophy should guide that mission?

The mission that Christ gave to us after the great disappointment of 1844 was to complete the Reformation begun by the reformers of the Middle Ages. I was recently in London and visited the church of the morning star of the Reformation, John Wycliffe. As I walked about this ancient sanctuary examining the relics of a great mission started by the appointment of the Holy Spirit, I watched the present pastor in his robes and regalia dismissing the people after a funeral. How sad, how tragic to see such a failure that could have been such a great success, if the followers of this preacher of righteousness had held a true course to the mission set forth by its founder!

Some years ago I visited Wittenberg where Luther's 95 theses launched a great mission for God. His goal was to complete the Reformation begun by Wycliffe, but sadly he failed; the mission so valiantly begun lost its moorings and drifted into the rocks of apostasy. What tragedy!

Many others came with a mission — John Knox, the Wesleys — but again the shooting star of reformation burned out and disappeared into the darkness of apostasy.

The year 1844 announced to the world and the church that the judgment was set and the books were opened. See Daniel 7:10-12. Farmers, ship captains, men untrained in the scientific institutions, received the mantle of ministry. With the energy and zeal and enthusiasm of their youth they accepted the challenge, a mission to complete the Reformation. These men and women, the pioneers, were young. Their average age was twenty-three.

Their goal was to take the experience of the Midnight Cry and swell it with God's power into the loud cry of the third angel's message, which could have soon accomplished its mission. What has happened? Ellen White wrote in 1852 that the Reformation was already failing.

"Had Adventists, after the great disappointment in 1844, held fast their faith, and followed on unitedly in the opening providence of God, receiving the message of the third angel and in the power of the Holy Spirit proclaiming it to the world, they would have seen the salvation of God, the Lord would have wrought mightily with their efforts, the work would have been completed, and Christ would have come ere this to receive His people to their reward.

"But in the period of doubt and uncertainty that followed the disappointment, many of the Advent believers yielded their faith. Dissensions and divisions came in. The majority opposed with voice and pen the few who, following in the providence of God, received the Sabbath reform and began to proclaim the third angel's message. Many who should have devoted their time and talents to the one purpose of sounding warning to the world, were absorbed in opposing the Sabbath truth, and in turn, the labor of its advocates was necessarily spent in answering these opponents and defending the truth. Thus the work was hindered, and the world was left in darkness.

Had the whole Adventist body united upon the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, how widely different would have been our history!" Selected Messages, book 1, 68

According to our prophet we should have been in the kingdom a long time before this. To accomplish a mission for God, we who are involved in such a sacred calling must follow God's plan, His blueprint.

Because they deviated from God's plan all the reformations of the past have failed to accomplish their mission. Man began to lean on the arm of flesh. See Jeremiah 17:5. He used his own mind and plans, and the lights kindled by the reformers went out in darkness.

Is Adventism following a similar course? Are we failing, and if so, why? Let us remember 325,000 babies are born each day, the world's population is increased by about 80 million each year. If we fail, it will be because we have neglected the philosophy of spiritual success, a willingness to be made willing to obey in the smallest detail God's great plan for the completion of the Reformation. It is time, dear reader, to examine ourselves now, before it is too late. "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" 2 Corinthians 13:5

Yes, the church goes through. There will not be another. But only those who have developed the character of Jesus fully will then receive the seal of the living God. Those who have kept the Sabbath perfectly, in a state of devout worship Sabbath by Sabbath, will have a living experience, a powerful testimony of God's power. The Seventh-day Adventist Church, God's faithful and loyal, will give the loud cry to the world, "Come out of her, my people." Companies will leave us, but tribes from the Babylon churches will take their places. The numbers increase in the second Pentecost. Let us prepare today and every day for that great experience, the fulfilling of our mission—the Reformation completed by His Spirit and His people. See Testimonies, vol. 5, 136; vol. 8, 41.

—RON SPEAR, EDITOR.
It is the mission of Hope International and the editors of Our Firm Foundation to clearly present Christ and His truth. The days that yet remain of this world are few, and what we do we must do quickly. We must boldly proclaim the historic truths of Adventism that place us on so firm a foundation in the midst of this troubled world. —EDITORS

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To Our Readers,

This special issue of Our Firm Foundation is the fourth in a series dealing with some of the most important questions facing the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In January we presented a special issue on the 1888 Centennial. In March we dealt with Righteousness by Faith. Last month’s magazine was dedicated to Christ and His Sanctuary. This issue focuses on the broad range of Coming Events. Each of these special issues is, we believe, a valuable tool to help in grounding our people in the historic truths that have made us Seventh-day Adventists. These special issues are available in quantities of 50 or more for a suggested donation of 30¢ apiece. We pray that the spreading of these solid truths of inspiration will strengthen and establish God’s people.
A GREAT CRISIS awaits the people of God. A crisis awaits the world. The most momentous struggle of all the ages is just before us." Testimonies, vol. 5, 711.

"The whole universe is looking with inexpressible interest to see the closing work of the great controversy between Christ and Satan." Ibid., 526

Are we, like the mother of Moses, giving our young people this preparation for the supreme test ahead of them?

"The principles necessary for our youth to cultivate must be kept before them in their daily education, that when the decree shall go forth requiring all to worship the beast and his image, they may make the right decisions, and have strength to declare, without wavering, their confidence in the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, even at the very time when the law of God is made void by the religious world. Those who waver now and are tempted to follow in the wake of apostates who have departed from the faith, "giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils," will surely be found on the side of those who make void the law of God, unless they repent and plant their feet firmly upon the faith once delivered to the saints." Ibid., 525

They must stand alone then; can they do it now?

"It does not seem possible to us now that any should have to stand alone; but if God has ever spoken by me, the time will come when we shall be brought before councils and before thousands for His name's sake, and each one will have to give the reason of his faith. Then will come the severest criticism upon every position that has been taken for the truth. We need, then, to study the Word of God, that we may know why we believe the doctrines we advocate. We must critically search the living oracles of Jehovah." Review and Herald, December 18, 1888

Experience for this test must be obtained now.

"The members of the church will individually be tested and proved. They will be placed in circumstances where they will be forced to bear witness for the truth. Many will be called to speak before councils and in courts of justice, perhaps separately and alone. The experience which would have helped them in this emergency they have neglected to obtain, and their souls are burdened with remorse for wasted opportunities and neglected privileges." Testimonies, vol. 5, 463

We are to make preparation in order to be certain we acquire this experience.

"Have you that intensity of zeal, that piety and devotion, which will enable you to stand when opposition is brought upon you? If God has ever spoken by me, the time will come when we shall be brought before councils, and every position of truth which we hold will be severely criticized. The time that we are now allowing to go to waste should be devoted to the charge God has given us, of preparing for the approaching crisis. Much time should be spent in prayer, that our garments of character may be washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb." Review and Herald, December 11, 1888

Compiled by David Paulson (1868-1916), founder of Hinsdale Sanitarium and editor of Life Boat magazine.
God's people will be scattered all over the earth.

"In the day of fierce trial He will say, 'Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee; hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.' What are the chambers in which they are to hide? They are the protection of Christ and holy angels. The people of God are not at this time all in one place. They are in different companies, and in all parts of the earth; and they will be tried singly, not in groups. Everyone must stand the test for himself." Historical Sketches, 158

Those who are halfhearted now will then become our fiercest enemies.

"The work which the church has failed to do in a time of peace and prosperity she will have to do in a terrible crisis under most discouraging, forbidding circumstances. The warnings that worldly conformity have silenced or withheld must be given under the fiercest opposition from enemies of the faith. And at that time the superficial, conservative class, whose influence has steadily retarded the progress of the work, will renounce the faith and take their stand with its avowed enemies, toward whom their sympathies have long been tending. These apostates will then manifest the most bitter enmity, doing all in their power to oppress and sion now to say Nay." Early Writings, 67

If parents are not prepared to answer this question now, how will they answer it then?

"Parents, ask yourselves the solemn question, 'Have we educated our children to yield to paternal authority, and thus trained them to obey God, to love Him, to hold His law as the supreme guide of conduct and life? Have we educated them to be missionaries for Christ? to go about doing good? Believing parents, your children will have to fight decisive battles for the Lord in the day of conflict." Review and Herald, April 23, 1889; Child Guidance, 491-492

"The tender mercies of this power [earthly potentates] will be displayed in prison cells and dungeons. Already preparations are advancing, and movements are in progress, which will result in making an image to the beast. Events will be brought about in the earth's history that will fulfill the predictions of prophecy for these last days.... Are we preparing our children for the great crisis?" Review and Herald, April 23, 1889

"Are we preparing ourselves and our households to understand the position of our adversaries, and their modes of warfare? Are our children forming habits of decision, that they may be firm and unyielding in every matter of principle and duty? I pray that we all may understand the signs of the times, and that we may so prepare ourselves and our children that in the time of conflict God may be our refuge and defense." Ibid.; Child Guidance

Those who yield easily to worldly customs are certain to fall then.

"The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul. The mark of the beast will be imposed upon us. Those who have stepped step yielded to worldly demands and conform to worldly customs will find it a hard matter to yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threats of imprisonment and death." Testimonies, vol. 5, 81

Those who now have a good appearance but are frail will be sifted out then.

"In the absence of persecution, there have drifted ranks some who appear sound, and their Christianity unquestionable, but who, if persecution should arise, would go out from us. In the crisis, they would see force in specious reasoning that had had an influence on their minds. Satan has prepared various snares to meet varied minds. When the law of God is made void, the church will be sifted by fiery trials, and a larger proportion than we now anticipate will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. Instead of being strengthened when

A larger proportion than we now anticipate will give heed to seducing spirits

brought into strait places, many prove that they are not living branches of the True Vine: they bore no fruit and the husbandman taketh them away." General Conference Bulletin, 1891, 257; Selected Messages, book 2, 368

Those who can develop a revival spirit instead of criticisms from others' shortcomings will win out in the coming crisis.

"All who will gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their defections, and loyalty from their treason, will triumph with the third angel's message." Review and Herald, June 8, 1897; Sons and Daughters of God, 201

The present easygoing type of religion will not meet the crisis before us.

"A great crisis awaits the people of God. Very soon our nation will attempt to enforce upon all the observance of the first day of the week as a sacred day. In doing this, they will not scruple to compel men against the voice of their own conscience to observe the day the nation declares to be the Sabbath. In view of this, there must be, among God's commandment-keeping people, more spirituality and a deeper consecration to God, and a
zeal in His work that has never yet been reached, to hold aloft the banner of God’s truth....

“...When declension and danger threaten the church, there will be more praying, more fasting, by the faithful few, and the Lord will answer the prayers offered to Him in sincerity, and at the same time He will come forth as an avenger because of the guiltiness of the evil-workers. He will be a protector; for He will ‘avenge His own elect, which cry day and night unto Him, though He

We should be mighty in Him, and yet we would walk with all lowness of mind

bear long with them.’” Review and Herald Extra, December 11, 1888

We must be clothed in Christ’s righteousness.

“There is a work to be done for this time in fitting a people to stand in the day of trouble, and all must act their part in this work. They must be clothed with the righteousness of Christ, and be so fortified by the truth, that the delusions of Satan shall not be accepted by them as genuine manifestations of the power of God. Years have been lost, but will you now awake?” Review and Herald Extra, December 24, 1889

The whole world will be against the handful of the remnant.

“The whole world is to be stirred with enmity against Seventh-day Adventists, because they will not yield homage to the Papacy by honoring Sunday, the institution of this anti-Christian power. It is the purpose of Satan to cause them to be blotted from the earth, in order that his supremacy of the world may not be disputed.” Review and Herald, August 22, 1893

If the present epidemic of criticism and faultfinding can cease, God’s people can become a tower of strength.

“In the place of those who have the light of truth allowing jealousy and evil surmisings to come in and weaken their love and union one with another, their united prayers should ascend to Heaven for the Lord to arise, and put an end to the violence and abuse which are practiced in our world. More prayer and less talk is what God desires, and it would make His people a tower of strength.” Review and Herald, June 15, 1897

“Instead of increased power as we enter the perils of the last days, weakness, dissension, and strife for supremacy, are apparent, but if we had a connection with the God of heaven, we should be mighty in Him, and yet we would walk with all lowness of mind, having self hid in Jesus. But now both spiritual and natural feebleness and death are depriving us of workers. God alone, by His Holy Spirit, can arouse us from the slumber of death.” Review and Herald Extra, December 24, 1889

Ministers and people who are standing in the light should be confessing their sins to God and to one another.

“The solemn time has come when ministers should be weeping between the porch and the altar, crying, ‘Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach.’ It is a day when instead of lifting up their souls in self-sufficiency, ministers and people should be confessing their sins before God and one another.” Ibid.

An eleventh-hour group will be converted in that crisis.

“The Bible will be opened from house to house, and men and women will find access to these homes, and minds will be opened to receive the Word of God; and when the crisis comes, many will be prepared to make right decisions even in the face of the formidable difficulties that will be brought about through the deceptive miracles of Satan. Although these will confess the truth and become workers with Christ at the eleventh hour, they will receive equal wages with those who have wrought through the whole day. There will be an army of steadfast believers who will stand as firm as a rock through the last test.” Ibid.

There will be a corrupt harmony between Rome, the church, and the world.

“The Word of God plainly declares that His law is to be scorned, trampled upon by the world; there will be an extraordinary prevalence of iniquity. The professed Protestant world will form a confederacy with the man of sin, and the church and the world will be in corrupt harmony. Here the great crisis is coming upon the world. The Scriptures teach that popery is to regain its lost supremacy, and that the fires of persecution will be rekindled through the time-serving concessions of the so-called Protestant world. In this time of peril we can stand only as we have the truth and the power of God. Men can know the truth only by being themselves partakers of the divine nature. We have need now for more than human wisdom in reading and searching the Scriptures, and if we come to God’s Word with humble hearts, He will raise up a standard for us against the lawless element.” General Conference Bulletin, 1891, 257; Selected Messages, book 2, 367-368

Passing through Paul’s experience will require Paul’s religion.

“In the great crisis through which they are soon to pass, they will become better acquainted with the experience of Paul. Among the professed followers of Christ, there is the same

We shall encounter the same hardness of heart, the same cruel determination

pride, formalism, vainglory, selfishness, and oppression, that existed in the Jewish nation. Before the warfare shall be ended and the victory won, we as a people are to experience trials similar to those of Paul. We shall encounter the same hardness of heart, the same cruel determination, the same unyielding hatred.... In that
The people need to be aroused to resist the advances of this most dangerous foe

Pray for the holding of the four winds till our missionary movement becomes worldwide.

"The prophet saw 'four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the winds should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. Another angel ascending from the east, cried to them, saying, 'Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of God in their foreheads.' This points out the work we now have to do, which is to cry to God for the angels to hold the four winds until missionaries shall be sent to all parts of the world, and shall have proclaimed the warning against disobeying the law of Jehovah." Ibid., December 11, 1888

"It is essential that we be much in prayer to God, that His voice and His power may be manifested in behalf of His people, and that the angels may hold the four winds until the truth is more fully proclaimed, and the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads. God is not pleased with the attitude of His people." Ibid., January 1, 1889

"Shall we sit with folded hands, and do nothing in this crisis? ... It seems that the breaking loose of the four winds is about to take place." Ibid., December 18, 1888

"We must arouse the public. "The people of our land need to be aroused to resist the advances of this most dangerous foe to civil and religious liberty." The Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 4, 382

"If we hold our peace, we will be held responsible for the consequences. "Those whom God has made the depositaries of His law, and of the pure religion of Jesus, must be determined to let their light shine. If they do nothing to disabuse the minds of the people, and through ignorance of the truth our legislatures should abjure the principles of Protestantism, and give countenance and support to the Roman fallacy, the spurious sabbath, God will hold His people who have had great light responsible for their lack of diligence and faithfulness. But if the subject of religious legislation is judiciously and intelligently laid before the people, and they see that through Sunday enforcement the Roman apostasy would be re-enacted by the Christian world, and that the tyranny of past ages would be repeated, then whatever comes, we shall have done our duty." Review and Herald, December 24, 1889

Religious liberty questions must be agitated.

"The wrath of man shall praise thee," says the psalmist; "the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain." God means that testing truth shall be brought to the front and become a subject of examination and discussion, even if it is through the contempt placed upon it. The minds of the people must be agitated. Every controversy, every reproach, every slander, will be God's means of provoking inquiry and awakening minds that otherwise would slumber." Testimonies, vol. 5, 453

As Satan quoted scripture to Christ, so will he inspire his agents to quote it to us.

"Let not the commandment-keeping people of God be silent at this time, as though we gracefully accepted the situation. There is the prospect before us, of waging a continuous war, at the risk of imprisonment, of losing property and even life itself, to defend the law of God, which is being made void by the laws of men. This Bible text will be quoted to us, 'Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. ... The powers that be are ordained of God.'" Review and Herald, January 1, 1889

"The question is asked, Shall we not obey the powers that be? Yes, when they are in harmony with the higher powers that be." Ibid., April 15, 1890

Every controversy, every reproach, will be God's means of provoking inquiry
Almost Armageddon

DOES ADVENTISM today really understand its mission? Are we able to grasp the awesomeness of this explosive crisis hour? All humanity seems to be standing on the precipice, looking into the chasm of oblivion. Only a great miracle can change our predestined rendezvous with destiny.

The power of the destructive forces, created by the genius of our last-day supertechnology, fingers on our daily horizon, only waiting for God's permission to unleash their destruction on an apprehensive world. Ellen White saw the picture of our time more than one hundred years ago. Watch, listen as God replays it for us in this fulfillment hour:

"The world, full of rioting, full of godless pleasure, is asleep, asleep in carnal security. Men are putting asleep off the coming of the Lord. They laugh at warnings. The proud boast is made, 'All things continue as they were from the beginning.' 'Tomorrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant.' 2 Peter 3:4; Isaiah 56:12. We will go deeper into pleasure loving. But Christ says, 'Behold, I come as a thief.' Revelation 16:15. At the very time when the world is asking in scorn, 'Where is the promise of His coming?' the signs are fulfilling. While they cry, 'Peace and safety,' sudden destruction is coming. When the scourer, the rejecter of truth, has become presumptuous; when the routine of work in the various money-making lines is carried on without regard to principle; when the student is eagerly seeking knowledge of everything but his Bible, Christ comes as a thief.

"Everything in the world is in agitation. The signs of the times are ominous. Coming events cast their shadows before. The Spirit of God is withdrawing from the earth, and calamity follows calamity by sea and by land. There are tempests, earthquakes, fires, floods, murders of every grade. Who can read the future? Where is security? There is assurance in nothing that is human or earthly. Rapidly are men ranging themselves under the banner they have chosen. Restlessly are they waiting and watching the movements of their leaders. There are those who are waiting and watching and working for our Lord's appearing. Another class are falling into line under the generalship of the first great apostate. Few believe with heart and soul that we have a hell to shun and a heaven to win." The Desire of Ages, 635-636

Here we are standing facing the climax of the 6,000 years of the great controversy. Another world war seems inevitable. The daily fulfilling signs are ominous. The prophet for our time was continually alarmed for the condition of the people. She states that the majority will forsake us in the last crisis hour. Many times she says that few have made the character preparation to stand in that day. But there will be a remnant who will. This church will be shaken, purified, and will emerge victorious, praise God. Many in this tragic time are ready to abandon ship. Stay on board! The ship goes through with crew and passengers.

Ron Spear
Let us remember, probation will close suddenly, unexpectedly for the church and for the world. When the wedding bells are chiming, when business is going on as usual, suddenly the end of their bright visions and delusive hopes comes crashing in. God again portrays the world’s future:

When the Lord’s time comes, men will find that the hand that was strong to save will be strong to destroy.

“The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth. Plagues and judgments are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude.

“The condition of things in the world shows that troublous times are right upon us. The daily papers are full of indications of a terrible conflict in the near future. Bold robberies are of frequent occurrence. Strikes are common. Thefts and murders are committed on every hand. Men possessed of demons are taking the lives of men, women, and little children. Men have become infatuated with vice, and every species of evil prevails.”

“The time is coming when in their fraud and insolence men will reach a point that the Lord will not permit them to pass, and they will learn that there is a limit to the forbearance of Jehovah.

“I am instructed that when the Lord’s time comes, should no change have taken place in the hearts of proud, ambitious human beings, men will find that the hand that had been strong to save will be strong to destroy. No earthly power can stay the hand of God. No material can be used in the erection of buildings that will preserve them from destruction when God’s appointed time comes to send retribution on men for their disregard of His law and for their selfish ambition.” Testimonies, vol. 9, 11, 13.

Again, our day and tomorrow are portrayed daily before our eyes on the evening news. The twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew and the twenty-first chapter of Luke are finding their final fulfillment and are becoming today’s realities. Wars and rumors of wars, murders of every grade, financial uncertainty, and homosexuality are received as part of daily life with hardly a comment or a notice by our promiscuous, adulterous generation—and yet God has watched with a broken heart and has kept the score. The world’s cup is now full. And now, with the strong hand of justice, mercy soon will have accomplished its mission. The cease will be cast down, probation will close suddenly, unexpectedly, as an overwhelming surprise. “Transgression has almost reached its limit. Confusion fills the world, and a great terror is soon to come upon human beings. The end is very near. We who know the truth should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise.” Soon an awful surprise is coming upon the inhabitants of the world. Suddenly, with power and great glory, Christ will come. Then there will be no time to prepare to meet Him. Now is the time for us to give the warning message.” Ibid., vol. 8, 28, 37.

The human race is marching to Armageddon, and only the saints of God are marching to Zion. The final battle may already be engaged. The devil has come down as a roaring lion because he knows he has but a short time. “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil as a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” 1 Peter 5:8.

“We are standing upon the threshold of great and solemn events. Prophecies are fulfilling. Strange, eventful history is being recorded in the books of heaven. Everything in our world is in agitation. There are wars and rumors of wars. The nations are angry, and the time of the dead has come, that they should be judged. Events are changing to bring about the day of God, which hasteth greatly. Only a moment of time, as it were, yet remains. But while already nation is rising against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, there is not now a general engagement. As yet the four winds are held until the servants of God shall be sealed in their foreheads. Then the powers of earth will marshal their forces for the last great battle.” Ibid., vol. 6, 14.

Ellen White saw the battle rage.

“Last Friday morning, just before I awoke, a very impressive scene was presented before me. I seemed to awake from sleep but was not in my home. From the windows I could behold a terrible conflagration. Great balls of fire were falling upon houses, and from these balls fiery arrows were flying in every direction. It was impossible to check the fires that were kindled, and many places were being destroyed. The terror of the people was indescribable. ‘After a time I awoke and found myself at home. . . . Oh, that God’s people had a sense of the impending destruction of thousands of cities, now almost given to idolatry.’ Evangelism, 29.

“... The destructive forces of man’s genius are only waiting to do their work. There will follow a sequence of horrible, devastating events in quick succession. When the devil marshals his forces for the last great battle, the world will finally unite against God’s faithful, loyal and obedient saints.

Oh, that God’s people had a sense of the impending destruction of thousands of cities now given to idolatry.
In Moscow recently, the world leaders were crying, “Peace and safety,” but sudden destruction is coming. The prophet saw thousands of cities destroyed, millions will lose their lives in the certain conflagration. Now we, the church, must understand that our days are numbered; only a moment of time yet remains.

In Moscow recently, the world leaders were crying, “Peace and safety,” but sudden destruction is coming to take the world and the church as a thief in the night. (See 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3) Jesus said, “Many are called, but few are chosen.” Matthew 22:14. What tragedy! The majority will be swept away as in Noah’s day. Only a few survive. May God help us now! May we awake and recognize our Laodicean condition before it is too late. May we now buy from our great Leader, our King, the true Witness, gold tried in the fire—the faith of Jesus and the love of Jesus—before it is too late.6

It is almost Armageddon, dear reader. The door may soon close for the majority. Today is our day of probation. May we choose now to be God’s minority. His remnant in this last remnant of time, is our prayer. “Knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.” Romans 13:11-14

Dear reader, Jesus is coming coming soon. Get ready, get ready, get ready! 

1See Testimonies, vol. 5, 75, 83, 136; vol. 8, 67-68
2See Testimonies, vol. 1, 608-609; vol. 5, 10, 50, 210, 214
3See The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 7, 989
4See The Great Controversy, 338-339
5See Testimonies, vol. 8, 41
6See Testimonies, vol. 5, 233

Religious Liberty Update

In secularized modern society, statistics indicate the churches aren’t getting their job done by working separately. So they’re tackling it together.

That’s the path-breaking commitment of a broad coalition of American church leaders, Roman Catholic and nearly every brand of Protestant, to reclaim those detached from religion.

“The time has come for us to stop the quarreling with one another, the rivalry and sheep stealing, and learn to work together in mission,” says the Reverend Alvin A. Illig of Washington, D.C. Illig, director of the Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association and a key figure in the wide cross section of church leaders concerned with evangelism, said in an interview:

“The greatest challenge before us is reaching out to the huge mass of people not involved in churches and synagogues. We’ve all got to work together on it if we are to have any success in evangelization.”

Spurring this collaboration is the aim of an unprecedented, multidisciplinary national “Congress 88, a National Festival of Evangelism,” in Chicago, August 4-7. Planning for it has gone on for three years.

It is backed by a rare alliance of church specialists in evangelism from about 35 denominations, ranging from Mennonite to Catholic, mainline to Pentecostal, and Salvation Army to Southern Baptist.

“It’s a breakthrough of real significance,” Illig said.

“If Southern Baptists and Catholics and a coalition of this scope can come together and work harmoniously, it’s ecumenical enough to encourage a lot of folks that they can, too.”

“There’s no question we’re losing ground,” Illig said, adding that out of an average five congregations, only one is growing, one is shrinking, and three are simply static, remaining the same.

“One reason we’re failing and not making any progress is the scandal of divisions that is confusing and contradicts the basic nature of Christianity,” he said.

While the unusual co-operation on the problem can’t mend the brokenness, he said it can share insights and approaches, kindle mutual energies and enlist the various churches in the common task.

In doing it, he said, people drawn into religious participation will naturally “pick the particular church community to enrich their own lives,” whatever the denomination.

“We’ve got to stop fighting one another, and together raise consciousness about the huge communities out there without any religious life,” he said.

Planning for the joint congress developed through the Washington Roundtable on Evangelism, comprised of specialists on evangelism from various denominations.

The Reverend Grady Allison of New York, evangelism director for the Presbyterian Church (USA) and president of the congress board of directors, says: “We have Christ in common. We have the Scriptures in common. We have a concern for people in common. Other matters that have kept us apart are of lesser importance.”

The Albuquerque Tribune, Saturday, May 21, 1988
Hope International Camp Meeting

Mark the dates August 3-7 on your calendar. For your comfort, we suggest you bring cushions for the benches in the auditorium. If you plan to attend, and wish to stay on our grounds, you are more than welcome. We do ask that you write or call ahead as soon as possible to make a reservation. We do not expect a shortage of room, but we need to have this information in order to plan wisely to make the best use of our facilities. Water and restrooms will be available at several locations on the grounds. We will provide limited shower facilities, but hookups for water, sewer, and electricity are not available. Please plan on a real camp meeting, but also remember that you will have neighbors in the next tent. Because of this, we ask that pets not be brought along.

If you do not plan to stay on our grounds, you need not make a reservation with us. You should, however, make reservations ahead of time at the hotel or motel of your choice. The following may be of some assistance:

**Motel Puyallup**—25 miles north of Hope International. Rates from $30-$38 per night; kitchen units available for $3 extra. Call (206) 845-8825.


**Eagle’s Nest Motel**—10 miles south of Hope International. Rates from $35-$40 per night. Call (206) 569-2533.

**Tanwax Lake Resort**—6 miles north of Hope International. Full RV hookups $10 per night, trailers $7, tents $5. Call (206) 879-5533.

Children’s Meetings

We plan to provide limited weekday meetings for children, in addition to a regular Sabbath school. Any assistance with this work which you may offer would be very much appreciated. If you would be able to help, we ask that you write or call ahead and let us know what you could do. One particular need is for musical accompaniment, since pianos are unavailable for the children’s divisions. You may also be able to help with stories, activities, or song service.

We ask that children, when not in meetings, be under adult supervision at all times. We are not planning meetings for infants.

**Directions to Hope International**

From the South: Take I-5 north to exit 88; go east through Tenino to Yelm. Turn right at stoplight, go through and out of town. About one mile from the stoplight, turn right onto Hwy. 702 (look for signs to Mt. Rainier and Northwest Trek). Follow 702 for about 15 miles, crossing Hwy. 7, to a “T” intersection with Hwy. 161. Turn right (south) and go 2 miles to Ski Park Road. Turn left and go about 1/4 mile; cross a creek and Hope International will be on your left.

From the East: Take Hwy. 12 over White Pass to the town of Morton; turn right on Hwy. 7. Continue on Hwy. 7 for 5 miles past Elbe, then turn right on the Alder Cutoff Road. In Eatonville, turn right at the stoplight, go 3/4 mile to Ski Park Road. Turn right and go about 1/4 mile; cross a creek and Hope International will be on your left.

From the North: Take I-5 south to exit 154; then go east on Hwy. 405 for 2 miles, then south on Hwy. 167 for about 20 miles. Take the Puyallup-Olympia exit onto Hwy. 512 for 2 miles; then take the Eatonville-Mt. Rainier exit onto Hwy. 161 for about 23 miles to Ski Park Road. Turn left and go about 1/4 mile; cross a creek and Hope International will be on your left.

**Book Evangelism Seminar**

Immediately following the Hope International camp meeting there will be a four-day seminar in dark-county paperback book evangelism. The seminar gives general principles in the ministry of selling our message books, with special emphasis on the paperback editions. Field experience refines the skills learned. Learn to enter into this work as a part-time or full-time ministry.

**Home Schooling Seminar**

Immediately following the Hope International camp meeting there will be a three-day (August 8-10) home schooling seminar presented on our campus by Gwen Hawkins of Country Gardens School. We encourage anyone who are contemplating home schooling to take advantage of this opportunity, as these seminars have been very much appreciated in the past.

Subjects covered will include choosing curriculum and materials (K-12), planning and organizing a home school, Bible-based teaching, motivation and discipline, and the use of the *Writing Road to Reading* program. In addition, there will be an opportunity to receive personal help with curriculum questions and to examine and/or purchase a wide variety of textbooks and materials.

If you plan to attend this seminar, please take a moment to get in touch with Country Gardens to let them know. This information will be a great help to them in planning how much stock to bring. Write or call Country Gardens School, P.O. Box 6, College Place, WA 99324; (509) 525-8143.

**Truth for Today Broadcast**

The Truth for Today series is being broadcast on the Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN), Satcom #1, channel 17. Broadcast times through July are 12 noon and 10 P.M. Pacific Time on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sabbath. These programs present our full message, and have generated a favorable response.
The Overwhelming Surprise

Transgression has almost reached its limit. Confusion fills the world, and a great terror is soon to come upon human beings. The end is very near. We who know the truth should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise. "Testimonies," vol. 8, 28

What is this great surprise which will soon overwhelm the world? "Soon an awful surprise is coming upon the inhabitants of the world. Suddenly, with power and great glory, Christ will come. Then there will be no time to prepare to meet Him." Ibid., 37. The overwhelming surprise for the world will be the second coming of Christ. However, in this article we want to study the overwhelming surprise for the church. What will be the surprise for the church? It will be the close of probation coming at a most unexpected time: "When Jesus ceases to plead for man, the cases of all are forever decided. This is the time of reckoning with his servants. To those who have neglected the preparation of purity and holiness, which fits them to be waiting ones to welcome their Lord, the sun sets in gloom and darkness, and rises not again. Probation closes; Christ's intercessions cease in heaven. This time finally comes suddenly upon all, and those who have neglected to purify their souls by obeying the truth are found sleeping. They became weary of waiting and watching; they became indifferent in regard to the coming of their Master. They longed not for His appearing, and though there was no need of such continued, persevering watching. They had been disappointed in their expectations and might be again... They lost all anxiety and interest in the appearing of the Master. They became indifferent and careless, as though His coming were yet in the distance. But while their interest was buried up in their worldly gains, the work closed in the heavenly sanctuary, and they were unprepared... The Master, anticipating all this, gives them timely warning in the command to watch. He distinctly states the suddenness of His coming." Ibid., vol. 2, 191

The most important question we can ask about this surprise is, How can a person be prepared for it? Jesus has given us some advice to help us answer this question:

1) Watch — "Pay attention to yourselves lest your hearts be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the concerns of daily life and suddenly upon you that day arrive. As a trap it shall come upon all who dwell upon the face of the whole earth. Therefore watch always praying that you might be accounted worthy to escape all these things about to be and to stand before the Son of Man." Luke 21:34-36, (translated by the author). "Watch, lest you should speak hastily, fretfully and impatiently. Watch, lest pride should find a place in your heart. Watch, lest evil passions should overcome you, instead of your subduing them. Watch, lest a careless, indifferent spirit comes upon you, and you neglect your duty and become light and trifling, and your influence savor of death, rather than life." Youth's Instructor, October 1855. "What I say unto you I say unto all, Watch." Mark 13:37

2) Pray — "Watch and pray" Matthew 26:41. "To pray aright, is to ask
God in faith for the very things you need. Go to your chamber, or in some retired place, and ask your Father for Jesus’ sake to help you. There is power in that prayer that is sent up from a heart convinced of its own weakness, yet earnestly longing for that strength that comes from God. The earnest, fervent prayer will be heard and answered. Go to your God who is strong, and who loves to hear children pray, and, although you may feel very weak, and find yourself at times overcome by the enemy, because you have neglected the first command of our Saviour, to watch, yet do not give up the struggle. Make stronger efforts yourself than before. Faint not. Cast yourself at the feet of Jesus.... Confess your faults, your weakness, and that you must have help to overcome, or you perish.... Plead your case before God, through Jesus, until your soul can with confidence rely upon him for strength, and you feel that you are not left to do the work of overcoming alone. God will help you. Angels will watch over you.... Have a set time, a special season for prayer at least three times a day.” Youth’s Instructor, October 1855

(3) Work—“In the great judgment day those who have not worked for Christ, those who have drifted along, carrying no responsibility, thinking of themselves, pleasing themselves, will be placed by the Judge of all the earth with those who did evil. They receive the same condemnation.” Christ’s Object Lessons, 365. In the parable of the slothful servant (Matthew 25:14-30) Jesus points out our danger of negligence in active service for Him. This negligence, if not repented of, will cause us to lose our souls. “Toll, patience, self-sacrifice, reproach, poverty, hard work, enduring the contradiction of sinners against Himself, was the portion of Christ, and it must be the portion of man if he ever enters the Paradise of God.” Selected Messages, book 2, 166

The following quotations point out to us our first work, our greatest work, everyone’s work and our home work.

“It is an eternal law of Jehovah that he who accepts the truth that the world needs is to make it his first work to proclaim this truth.... How few are heart to heart with God in His solemn, closing work.” Testimonies, vol. 7, 13

“The Lord does not judge us according to the elevation of our various spheres, but according to the faithfulness with which we fill them.... The greatest work that can be done in our world is to glorify God by living the character of Christ.” Ibid., vol. 6, 439

“To everyone who becomes a part-taker of His grace, the Lord appoints a work for others.... It is his work to re-

The theory of truth, unaccompanied by the Holy Spirit, cannot quicken the soul or sanctify the heart

“Without the Spirit of God a knowledge of His word is of no avail. The theory of truth, unaccompanied by the Holy Spirit, cannot quicken the soul or sanctify the heart. One may be familiar with the command and promises of the Bible; but unless the Spirit of God sets the truth home, the character will not be transformed. Without the enlightenment of the Spirit, men will not be able to distinguish truth from error, and they will fall under the masterful temptations of Satan....

“The Spirit works upon man’s heart, according to his desire and consent implanting in him a new nature; but the class represented by the foolish virgins have been content with a superficial work. They do not know God. They have not studied His character; they have not held communion with Him; therefore they do not know how to trust, how to look and live....

“Character is not transferable. No man can believe for another. No man can receive the Spirit for another. No man can impart to another the character which is the fruit of the Spirit’s working. Though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it [the land], as I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness.” Ezekiel 14:20

“It is in a crisis that character is revealed. When the earnest voice proclaimed at midnight, ‘Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him,’ and the sleeping virgins were roused from their slumbers, it was seen who had made preparation for the event. Both parties were taken unawares; but one was prepared for the emergency, and the other was found

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without preparation.” Christ’s Object Lessons, 408-412

Many have wondered how the close of probation could possibly take them by surprise. It has been prophesied that before the close of probation there would be a national Sunday law, and then we would know that probation was about to close. See Testimonies, vol. 5, 451. How can it be that the close of probation will take us by surprise when we know beforehand of this prominent event that will just precede it?

It is impossible at present to give a complete answer to such questions, and yet the counsels of the Spirit of Prophecy as recorded in both the Bible and the writings of Ellen White give us certain clues pointing to events to take place just before the close of probation. How can we then be surprised when probation closes? (The saints will know a very short time after the close of probation that it has indeed closed. See Spiritual Gifts, vol. 1, 199; Early Writings, 36-37. Adventists who are unsaved will also know. See Maranatha, 254.) Some of these clues are listed below:

(1) When We Least Expect It

The close of probation “will come suddenly, unexpectedly—at a time when we are least expecting it.” The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 7, 989. There have been times, such as when Sunday laws were made constitutional in the United States in 1961, or when the energy crisis prompted the closing of gas stations on Sunday in 1973, that many expected Sunday laws and the soon closing of probation. The actual event however will not come when we are looking for it, but when we are “least expecting it.” Ibid. Some will no doubt expect it to occur earlier than it actually does and others will expect it to occur later—both groups will be surprised.

(2) At a Time of Global Calamities

Before the last closing conflict there will be a bitter persecution of Seventh-day Adventists in which many will lose their lives. Maranatha, 199. After this persecution the last closing message in the conflict between truth and error will be given. The Great Controversy, 603-612. During this final conflict there will be a multitude of disasters, some “natural” and some international in scope. See The Great Controversy, 589-590. During a prolonged testing time when the last great delusion is urged upon the saints, God’s children will be engrossed in prayer, and in fighting the battles of the Lord. In the midst of all this commotion, money-making lines is carried on without regard to principle; when the student is eagerly seeking knowledge of everything but his Bible, Christ comes as a thief.” The Desire of Ages, 635

“The righteous and the wicked will still be living upon the earth in their mortal state—men will be planting and building, eating and drinking, all unconscious that the final, irrevocable decision has been pronounced in the sanctuary above. . . . Silently, unnoticed as the midnight thief, will come

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Many are in danger of waiting until they see a Sunday law to make serious preparation for the second coming of Christ

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(4) The Delay

The delay is part of the cause of the surprise. “Christ has told us that He will come as a thief in the night. He says unto all, ‘Watch.’ To very, very many, He will come in such an hour as they think not. At the time of His coming, men will be asking, ‘Where is the promise of His coming?’ ” The Upward Look, 365

Our Great Danger

Many Adventists are in danger of waiting until they see a Sunday law or some other “sign” to make serious preparation for the second coming of Christ. If we are not actively standing for truth now, what will we do when the mark of the beast is urged upon us? See Testimonies, vol. 5, 81; The Great Controversy, 608. We have been warned of this event so many times that any reader of the writings of Ellen White certainly must know this fact. Following is a
touching appeal from her pen: "I was shown our danger, as a people, of becoming assimilated to the world rather than to the image of Christ. We are now upon the very borders of the eternal world, but it is the purpose of the adversary of souls to lead us to put far off the close of time. Satan will in every conceivable manner assail those who profess to be the commandment-keeping people of God and to be waiting for the second appearing of our Saviour in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. He will lead as many as possible to put off the evil day and become in spirit like the world, imitating its customs...."

"In consideration of the shortness of time we as a people should watch and pray, and in no case allow ourselves to be diverted from the solemn work of preparation for the great event before us. Because the time is apparently extended, many have become careless and indifferent in regard to their words and actions. They do not realize their danger and do not see and understand the mercy of our God in lengthening their probation, that they may have time to form characters for the future, immortal life. Every moment is of the highest value. Time is granted them, not to be employed in studying their own ease and becoming dwellers on the earth, but to be used in the work of overcoming every defect in their own characters and in helping others, by example and personal effort, to see the beauty of holiness...."

"Only virtuous and spotless characters will be permitted to enter the presence of a pure and holy God." Testimonies, vol. 4, 306-307, 312

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**Religious Liberty Update**

_Fiji Gazette, Published by authority of the Fiji Military Government, Monday, 9th November 1987_

**FIJI MILITARY GOVERNMENT DECREE NO. 20
SUNDAY OBSERVANCE DECREE 1987 (NO. 20)**

In exercise of the powers vested in me as Commander and Head of the Fiji Military Government, I hereby make the following Decree:

1. This Decree may be cited as the Sunday Observance Decree, 1987.

2. (1) Sunday shall be observed in the Republic of Fiji as a sacred day and a day of worship and thanksgiving to Christ the Lord, and such observation shall be without prejudice to section 3(2) and section 10 of the Fundamental Freedoms Decree.

   (2) For the purpose of this Decree Sunday commences at midnight on the preceding Saturday and ends at midnight on Sunday.

3. All persons irrespective of whether or not they profess the Christian faith shall respect Sunday and shall, subject to section (4) of this Decree, neither do nor omit to do any act that may undermine the significance of Sunday to the Christians in the Republic of Fiji.

4. The following activities may be undertaken on Sunday:

   (a) performance of essential services as set out in the Schedule to this Decree;
   (b) carriage of persons from one place to another in a private motor vehicle;
   (c) transport to and participation in worship; religious discussions and activities;
   (d) preparation of food outside a dwelling house by way of a "livo" or barbecue;
   (e) tendering of essential services in relation to domestic animals

Provided that the performance of any of the above is not in relation to the conduct or furtherance of any trade, business or gainful employment, and, in respect of (d) above it shall be an essential precondition that all the food and materials required are gathered prior to Sunday.

5. (1) Subject to sections 2 and 4 of this Decree all other activities not normally carried out on Sunday are prohibited and as such are unlawful.

   (2) For the avoidance of any doubt it shall be unlawful for a person to do any of the following on Sunday:

   (a) attend picnic and/or any gathering in a public place or participation in any sporting activities anywhere;
   (b) engage in commerce or trade for profit and performance of professional services wherever for a fee or levy;
   (c) operate buses, taxis or other means of public transport;
   (d) operate a hotel, restaurant, cinema or nightclub and related activities or businesses.

Provided that bona fide tourists (whenever any of the above is relevant) shall not be affected by any of such prohibitions and are exempted therefrom and such tourists shall be entitled to be served as normal without any repercussions on the person providing the service required by them.

6. Any other activities sought to be carried out on Sunday and for whatever reason and/or purpose it is sought to be carried out shall only be carried out following the obtaining of a permit from the nearest police station, and, such permit shall only be issued by officers holding the rank of Inspectors and above, and for rural stations by station officers or their assistant from time to time.

7. Any person who is in breach of any of the provisions of this Decree shall be guilty of an offence and upon conviction shall be liable to a fine of not exceeding $100.00 or to one month's imprisonment, or liable to both such fine and of imprisonment.

8. This Decree shall come into force on 29th October, 1987.

Dated this 11th day of November 1987.

Colonel Sitiveni Liganamadra Rabuka O. B. E. (Mil.)
Commander and Head of the Fiji Military Government
The Power of Godliness

Jannes and Jambres wrought their own ruin. Their folly is open for all to see. They could not admit that two slaves might be right, especially at such a cost to Egypt. It was, no doubt, a hot, sunny day when the two "slaves," recently returned from the Sinai, stood before Pharaoh and commanded him in the name of the Lord, "Let my people go." Exodus 5:1. Pharaoh, already sweltering in the midafternoon heat, could not bear the thought of replacing his slave labor with respectable, civilized Egyptians. He refused to acknowledge the Lord and increased the burdens of the Israelites.

Moses and Aaron sought the Lord to understand why, when He had promised freedom, the oppression only became worse. What followed was a struggle between the power of God working through Moses and Aaron, and the power of Satan working through Pharaoh's sorcerers and magicians, Jannes and Jambres. When Moses and Aaron returned to Pharaoh, he asked them for a sign. Aaron cast down his rod and it became a serpent. Jannes and Jambres cast down their rods, and the power of Satan gave them the appearance of life. They were inferior imitations (Aaron's rod ate theirs); nevertheless the appearance was close enough that Pharaoh could believe the power of his magicians was equal to that of Moses and Aaron. He refused to hearken unto them; he would not let Israel go. See Pantarch's and Prophets, 263.

Then followed the plagues. Ten times God warned Pharaoh of the impending disasters. Ten times Pharaoh ignored the warnings. Jannes and Jambres turned water to blood and they brought up frogs on the land. "Satan thought to stagger the faith of Moses and Aaron in the divine origin of their mission." Testimonies, vol. 1, 292. But when Moses turned the dust into lice, Jannes and Jambres were forced to admit, "This is the finger of God." Exodus 8:19. Nevertheless they resisted the truth (2 Timothy 3:8), and sought for natural, scientific explanations of all the calamities that fell upon Egypt.

"Each visitation from God was more severe than the preceding one, yet they would not release the children of Israel until the angel of the Lord slew the firstborn of the Egyptians. From the king upon the throne down to the most humble and lowly, there was wailing and mourning... His counselors and mighty men tried to account for their bereavement. They would not admit that the visitation or judgment was from God, and therefore they pursued after the children of Israel..."

"The Lord commanded Moses to bid them [the children of Israel] go forward, and to lift up the rod and stretch out his hand over the sea and divide it. He did so, and lo, the sea parted, and the children of Israel passed over dry shod. Pharaoh had so long withstood God, and hardened his heart against His mighty, wondrous works, that He in blindness rushed into the path which God had miraculously prepared for His people." Ibid., 265. He, his magicians and his army died in the sea. They wrought their own ruin. Their death was not necessary, but they refused to admit they might be wrong; they preferred the pleasures of sin to righteousness and justice.

Arnet Mathers
Paul tells us that in the last days men such as Jannes and Jambres will again oppose the people of God. He describes them as "lovers of their own selves, without natural affection, despisers of those that are good, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." 2 Timothy 3:4-5. These men will not be without power, however, for even as Jannes and Jambres were able to perform some supernatural marvels, so will those coming with the power of antichrist work with all power and signs and lying wonders. See 2 Thessalonians 2:9.

"While a new life is being diffused and is springing up from beneath and taking fast hold of all Satan's agencies, preparatory to the last great conflict and struggle, a new light and life and power is descending from on high, and taking possession of God's people who are not dead, as many now are, in trespasses and sins." Special Testimonies, Series A, No. 1, 39

The struggle is not between power and no power, but rather between a power from beneath and a power from above. The Jannes and Jambres of the last days, while exercising power, deny the power of godliness. They will have the power to cause "all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads," deceiving "them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast." Revelation 13:16, 14

There is, on the other hand, a group who have received the power of godliness. They have the "Father's name written in their foreheads," and they "follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth." Revelation 14:1, 4. They will be sealed with the seal of the living God. The power of the living God has a decided influence on the lives of those who serve Him. He is Creator, Judge, King, Redeemer; and Lawgiver. The most fundamental of all His powers is His creative power; because the word of His mouth comes to pass, He has power to judge, power to reign, power to redeem, and the law which He gives is but the expression of the order which He has established.

The living God will create a new heart in those who serve Him, will write His law into their hearts. In the days ahead, when it seems that all earthly power is under the control of an enemy, the faithful will look beyond this earth, in confidence waiting upon their Judge and King to set the record straight, and to save them. They know their Redeemer lives. By experience they know that..." The Lord knows His Own: Those whom He has created and redeemed the Lord claims as His own. He calls them by name and He calls them by His name. "But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by name: thou art mine. Even every one that is called by my name; for He has bought them from the slavery to sin, and set them free to obey Him, and they long for the final and complete redemption of their bodies.

God's seal itself speaks of His creative power to redeem and transform the life. It is the sign of the power of godliness. "What is the seal of the living God, which is placed in the foreheads of His people? It is a mark which angels, but not human eyes, can read; for the destroying angel must see this mark of redemption. The intelligent mind has seen the sign of the cross of Calvary in the Lord's adopted sons and daughters. The sin of the transgression of the law of God is taken away. They have on the wedding garment, and are obedient and faithful to all God's commands." The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 7, 968. Paul describes the seal thus: "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." 2 Timothy 2:19. The seal (the mark of redemption) which seals the servants of God has two parts: (1) the Lord knows His own (the sign of the cross), and (2) let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity (the sin of the transgression of the law is taken away).

Unless one is a new creature, unless all things have become new, the Sabbath can be nothing more than a meaningless form I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him." Isaiah 43:1, 7. Those who belong to God are the ones whom He has called by name, whom He has redeemed (bought out of slavery), whom He has formed, whom He has created for His glory. Jesus Christ, our nearest of kin, has bought us out of slavery. We are "carnal, sold under sin" Romans 7:14, but in Christ "we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace." Ephesians 1:7. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new... For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." 2 Corinthians 5:17, 21. This redemption frees us from the dominion of Satan; no longer need we remain in slavery to him. We are justified and set free; we are a new creation.

In order that Israel might never forget the lesson of this creative power to redeem, God enshrined it in the memorial of creation. "Keep the sabbath day to sanctify it, as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee... And remember that thou wast a servant; in the land of Egypt, and that the Lord thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a
stretched out arm: therefore the Lord thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day." Deuteronomy 5:12, 15 (Compare Exodus 6:6). Israel was redeemed out of slavery, therefore they were to keep this memorial of God's creative power. Every child of God who has been redeemed out of slavery to the carnal nature is called upon to keep this same memorial. It is the same creative power of God that has created him a new creature capable of obedience, that created light and darkness, the firmament and the seas, and the dry land. But, unless he is a new creature, unless all things have become new, the Sabbath can be nothing more than a meaningless form. Unless the creative act which the Sabbath commemorates is a reality in the life it is impossible to keep it holy.

Depart From Iniquity: "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Corinthians 6:20. Redemption out of slavery makes obedience possible. This freedom leads into the second part of the seal, "Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." 2 Timothy 2:19. It is our sanctification which Christ seeks. "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." 1 John 3:8-9. God has created us for His service: "We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10. He has a special place for each of us to fill, and He works in us "both to will and to do of his good pleasure." Philippians 2:13. Just as redemption and justification is a creative act of God, so also are the fruits of the new life, our sanctification.

This aspect of our creation God also commemorates. He commanded Moses saying, "Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you. . . It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed." Exodus 31:13, 17. Our sanctification is the creative work of God as verily as are the sun, moon and stars, the birds and fish, the animals and man. We cannot perfect our own lives. "Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? . . . Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham." Galatians 3:3, 7.

"If we would have the image and superscription of God upon us, we must separate ourselves from all iniquity. We must forsake every evil way, and then we must trust our cases in the hands of Christ. While we are working out our own salvation with fear and trembling, God will work in us to will and to do of His own good pleasure." The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 7, 978.

Once more we must see that without the reality of the creative work of God in the life the Sabbath commemorates a work of which the worshiper knows nothing. Unless the re-forming work of grace is active in the life, the Sabbath loses its significance and becomes at best empty ritual. For many it loses its sacred character and becomes a holiday instead of a holy day. But all who are being sanctified by the grace of God are called to keep this day holy; it is the sign of their covenant with God.

Every possible reason and inducement to yield to the power from beneath will be given. All who are lovers of their own selves, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God, all who, having a form of godliness, deny the power thereof will be overcome by the power and deceptions of that Wicked one. Why? Because they did not love the truth. Such an unnecessary and eternal loss, but the battle against self is the battle most of the world will lose. All who stand with Jannes and Jambres will with them be cast into the sea; this time, however, it is a lake of fire.

All who stand with Jannes and Jambres will with them be cast into the sea; this time, however, it is a lake of fire.

How can we escape their fate? By allowing God to transform our hearts, no matter what the cost. At times it will seem that it is our very eye that is being plucked out, or the right hand that is being cut off, so corrupted have our hearts become by sin. But the soul is purified "in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren." 1 Peter 1:22. Moses instructed the people: "Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes." Deuteronomy 11:18. Obedience (the sign upon the hand), which comes from having the law written in the heart, is a defense for the mind (as frontlets between the eyes). As we live thus day by day we can be "confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:6. None need perish. The issues are plain, and the way is marked out. Let us then die to self that we may be raised to newness of life, free to serve God now and forever. 1

1The living God is Creator (Acts 14:15), Lawgiver (Deuteronomy 5:26; 2 Corinthians 3:3; Hebrews 9:14), King and Judge (Jeremiah 10:10; Hebrews 10:21; Daniel 4:34-35), and Redeemer (Job 19:25-27).
I had rather do without groceries than to do without Our Firm Foundation, but God keeps helping me. He is always there with a helping hand.—IP, USA

We've enjoyed receiving Our Firm Foundation the past year or so and want to thank whoever has helped send it to us. Find enclosed a check to help pay our debt and perhaps give someone else a chance to be blessed by your rays of light.

Our lives have been touched by the messages in your magazine. May God continue to use it to draw all men to Him as you daily submit to His leading.—BB, USA

May grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. . . . I received a copy of the Special Issue: 1888 Centennial, January 1988 edition, in the post, courtesy of your England ministry.

The Scripture says, “Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.” Proverbs 3:27. I would like to praise God for someone sending me such a wholesome, complete, informative magazine that has been and is a balm to my soul.

I myself have been a Christian for over three years and was completely ignorant as to the major spiritual events of 1888.

This magazine, by the goodness of God, has dispelled darkness and shed light, where otherwise I would have remained in ignorance.

Upon reading such a consummate tribute to God's work I consider that God has given me the mandate to by His grace shed light to others. If I shed light like that magazine did to me, by the goodness of God a blessed ministry I will have.—PC, England

I am enclosing $10.00 as this is all that I have at the present time. Could you renew this subscription and I will send you the other $4.50 as I receive donations.

Please send us the April 1988 issue so we won't be missing any volumes, as we covet each and every issue. It is an excellent witnessing tool in our own church.

We pray for you and your family and ministry every day. I claim the promises of Psalm 34:7 and Psalm 125:2 for you and yours, and by putting you in God's care I can go about my daily duties assured that you are safe.—LC, USA

I was very happy when I received the parcel of books you sent me which arrived here on sixth of April 1988 in the morning I greatly feasted on Adventism in Crisis and was overwhelmed by what I learned involving our loved church, its insubordination in the light of all the counsel of God. I was stunned by the clear presentation of the reasons for our present condition as a church and the snares the devil has put in our future. After I read through this book, I was not that formal Adventist I used to be, and I was very encouraged to learn that there is hope for us if only we can return to our God with confession for our backsliding and insubordination. Now I am holding Bible studies using this book with my fellow brothers at home and on Sabbath afternoons. All of them have really enjoyed the message and you may as well expect more letters from this end.

Yet, I have not understood all the will of God and His plan for our salvation. The more I read of your publications, the more I become a real Seventh-day Adventist in knowledge and in spiritual growth and my plea is, Do not be fed up with me, teach me more of the things of God. I will always have to write to you burdening you with my many requests, and I am very encouraged by the love and kindness shown to me heretofore.—DM, Zambia

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus.

It was indeed a privilege for me to come across your magazine, Our Firm Foundation. It's packed with the pure doctrines dealt in a simple, yet in a vivid and clear manner. Doctrines of the nature of Christ, sanctuary, and state of death, etc., have really firmed my foundation in the Adventist truth. Especially, the vivid dealing about Christ as the door in the February 1988 issue has been very useful to me. I thank and praise God for your service.

I am a student of theology. In a year or few I will be back to the field doing my pastoral work. Your magazine is very useful for me as I do my course here. But it is very hard to own it and study it thoroughly. I just crave to have a copy of it for me every month, lest I miss any topic. But the "low" subscription price frightened me, at least as long as I am a student. Hence I do not know how can I be greedy enough or dare enough to request you to send me magazines without subscribing for it. However your notice on the third page, "We want no one to be unable to receive this material because of lack of funds," has encouraged me to write this request letter for your consideration.

It's all a privilege if I have a copy of Our Firm Foundation every month. I am convinced it's during this part of earth's history our foundation has to be firmed by such literature.

It's appreciated even if I get some old, old, issues. (I believe the truth is not old, [but] eternal.) I can read and help others understand. Praying for your ministry, praying for God's will.—PM, India
Dealing With The New Theology

There is no question that the furor caused by the New Theology caused tremendous alarm among leadership in the church. It was of such a magnitude in Australia that a number of conferences were held, both in Australia and in the United States, to seek a solution. Eventually it was decided that the best interests of Australia would be served by transferring Dr. Desmond Ford, the leading proponent of the New Theology, from Australia to the United States.

In 1977 Dr. Ford took up his post in the religion department of Pacific Union College, California. This move was not made without considerable warning from a number who knew Dr. Ford well. Both of us were among those who offered warnings. As early as October 1975 Colin warned the president of Pacific Union College that Dr. Ford could split the campus. Colin also warned one of the vice presidents of the General Conference, who assured him that the problem was a simple one. Ford was a big fish in a little pool in Australia. When he would come to the United States, he would match minds with the outstanding scholars we have in the seminary and colleges. He would then become a little fish in a big pool. Colin's response did prove accurate.

“He will become a big fish in a big pool. There is no Seventh-day Adventist theological mind in America that can match his mind.” It is unlikely that the vice president really believed what Colin said. But subsequent events confirmed the forecast. Russell provided similar warnings to visiting General Conference personnel in Australia. Tragically, the rise of the New Theology was already widespread in the United States, though not understood for what it was. It simply came to the surface under the mesmeric presentations of Dr. Ford. In many of our colleges, theologians trained in the universities of apostate Christianity were already teaching these errors as if they were God's truth. Thousands of our young people were beguiled.

We have lost hundreds of ministers and denominational workers and thousands of church members to the New Theology. Perhaps an even greater concern is the fact that much larger numbers who live by the New Theology are remaining in the church. Many have placed themselves in a position where it will be very difficult for them to accept the simple proclamation of the gospel presented in the Word of God and entrusted to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The whole issue was exacerbated by the Glacier View meetings in 1980. There Dr. Ford was given the opportunity to make a defense of his positions of prophetic interpretation in the presence of over a hundred church administrators and scholars. This followed the uncharacteristically frank declaration, before a meeting of the Adventist Forum at Angwin, in which Dr. Ford denied ever believing the sanctuary message as presented by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Literally hundreds of thousands of dollars were spent on this situation and sadly, at Glacier View, the issue addressed, prophetic interpretation, was not only a small segment of the problem. The issues of the gospel, righteousness by faith, salvation, the nature of that, the human nature of Christ, the nature of sin, and other keys to Ford's aberrant views on prophetic interpretation were not directly addressed.

Indeed, it was commonly held by many that, though Dr. Ford deviated from historic Adventism on the issue of prophetic interpretation, he had placed beautiful theological insights before our people on the issue of salvation, the gospel, and righteousness by faith. Nothing could have been further from the truth. Dr. Ford's entire theology was riddled with Augustinian error.

When it was decided to remove Dr. Ford from denominational employment, the situation was exacerbated by public pronouncements, both in word and in writing, on both sides of the Pacific Ocean. These included material written in the prestigious Ministry magazine. In this magazine it was emphasized that the Glacier View meeting, while taking a firm stand against the prophetic interpretations of Dr. Ford,
did not address the issue of righteousness by faith. Yet this was the basic cause of the prophetic deviation of Dr. Ford. That might have been bad enough, but the magazine went on to state that Dr. Ford had made wonderful contributions to the church on righteousness by faith. This statement showed a naive approach to theological consistency. It indicated that some of our leaders had little concept of the organization of the New Theology and every theological issue it espoused. It also indicated that, no doubt unwittingly, some leaders were prepared to accept an admixture of truth and error.

It is quite impossible to hold error on the sanctuary and yet be consistent with Scripture on righteousness by faith, for both are inextricably united. Though some leaders saw the issue clearly, it was a matter of deep concern that some did not perceive this fact.

Dr. Ford in personal conversation wholeheartedly agreed that if he was incorrect in his prophetic interpretation he was also wrong on his principles of salvation. He at least was not blind to this fact. Since Glacier View, little has been done to redress this dichotomy. As a result, it is highly probable that the New Theology, at least in part, has permeated the thinking and the belief systems of the majority of the church pastors and church members.

The tragedy is that most would strongly deny that they believe the New Theology.

The tragedy is that most do not recognize this perilous situation and would strongly deny that they believe the New Theology. This is not to say that these confused ones believe every aspect of Augustinian theology. Indeed virtually none have actually accepted every aspect of it. For example they have not accepted infant baptism or the issue of an eternally burning hell. However, in the area of predestination, once saved always saved, the unfallen nature of Christ, original sin, eternal security, there are telltale signs of the New Theology within the thinking of many within the Seventh-day Adventist Church. These views greatly distort truth and provide the foundation for the present impotence of the church in western nations.

At the same time church leaders were dealing with the Ford issue, they were vigorously opposing the teachings of Robert Brinsmead, another Australian who had been separated from the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He was teaching in the late 1950s and 1960s what he called the Awakening Message. This message focused upon the heavenly sanctuary work and the sealing ministry of Christ.

Early in the 1970s Brinsmead dramatically altered the thrust of his message. Accepting many teachings from Evangelical Protestantism, he found himself increasingly in harmony with the Augustinian positions that Ford espoused. It became rather obvious that it was difficult for leaders to entirely reject the theology of Dr. Ford because it had been used for more than a decade to oppose the teaching of Brinsmead in the late 1950s and 1960s. Yet it was clear that Brinsmead was persona non grata, and therefore he was much more readily opposed.

Of course later in the 1970s Brinsmead seemed intent upon putting distance between his positions and those of Ford, and therefore became more outspoken in denouncing cardinal Seventh-day Adventist beliefs, such as obedience to God’s law and Sabbath observance.

Almost a decade after Glacier View, the church has failed to address adequately the issue of righteousness by faith. Both publications and presentations upon the 1888 message of righteousness by faith have frequently shown an alarming lack of true understanding of this message. Some authors have also set forth a dangerous revision of history in an attempt to align the 1888 message with the New Theology concepts of the unfallen nature of Christ and the idea that man does not need victory over sin. Such efforts are plainly intellectual dishonesty of the worst sort. No trace of New Theology thinking is present in the 1888 messages.

Many are not sure which Christ they serve. They are uncertain whether God has power to give them victory over sin.

These messages were supported by strong appeals from the Review and Herald editor.

or whether He does not. Indeed they are not sure what sin is. They are vague on the significance of the sanctuary message and the investigative judgment. Sabbathkeeping has lost much of its purpose and a general vagueness has settled over many in the church, which blurs the distinctiveness and the uniqueness of the final message for the world.

We must acknowledge, however, some of the monumental efforts in the early to middle 1970s to provide a strong scriptural basis for revival and reformation. Led by General Conference President Elder Robert Pierson, the 1973 and 1974 annual councils focused upon the beautiful principles of righteousness by faith. These stirring messages were supported by strong appeals from the Review and Herald editor, Elder Kenneth Wood, and a special righteousness-by-faith issue of the magazine was produced. Tragically, many rose up against these timely, Christ-centered appeals.

Until we honestly and faithfully address these issues, church members will continue to be confused, and God’s people cannot be united in truth and sanctification. Truth, Bible supported, must and will be re-established in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

1 See Adventism Challenged, vol. 1, Hartland Publications for details of these conferences.

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Why the Threefold Union Is not Enough

Willard D. Regester

When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with Spiritualism, when, under the influence of this threefold union, our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan, and that the end is near." Testimonies, vol. 5, 451

A mundane statement, you say. Yes, this mighty prophetic statement with all of its ramifications has been quoted so long that Seventh-day Adventists, I fear, have stopped considering that for something this revolutionary to occur, the minds of the masses must be radically manipulated.

God's prophecies never occur in a vacuum. Neither has the progression of the threefold union. As we shall see, the psychological changes accompanying its progression must be a dynamic continuum which, at the same time, must appear reasonable or, at worst, not unreasonable. Let us quickly consider how this threefold union is progressing, and then explore the discussion and debates taking place which will allow this prophetic statement to be fulfilled.

The Roman Power. As one observes the peripatetic John Paul II, it is easy to see that he is the most loved and powerful representative in Rome's long history. It seems then that this component of the threefold union is progressing nicely.

Apostate Protestantism. During John Paul II's visit to the United States, the newspapers across America heralded with clarity the eagerness of Protestantism to make peace with Rome. Thus, "The National Council of Churches urged yesterday that Christians 'seize this moment' of Pope John Paul II's visit to the United States as a time to renew the effort for Christian unity in a divided world." San Francisco Chronicle, UPI, Wednesday, July 29, 1987

In the National Council of Churches statement, the Protestant and Orthodox leaders said they share John Paul's conviction "that Christian divisions are an intolerable scandal that hinders the proclamation of the gospel." Yes, apostate Protestantism is obviously keeping pace with the Roman power. This second component of the threefold union is right on track.

Spiritualism. As Laodicea goes busily about the overload of this life, I fear we have not been aware of what Satan is doing in the spirit-world to keep abreast of the other two components of the triad.

The dimensions of Spiritualism can be seen by the following quotations from Christianity Today. In speaking of Spiritualism, the article states, "Spirit Channeling is the latest fad in upper-scale, new-age Spiritism." Alexander Brooks, "Theology from the Twilight Zone," Christianity Today, September 18, 1987, 22-26. After speaking at much length about the various Hollywood stars who give credit for their success to their Channelers, the author continues: "It has been estimated that over 1,000 active Channelers practice in the Los Angeles area alone." Southern California may be "the Land of a Thousand Channelers, but it is only a focused version of what is happening more diffusely in other places." (Emphasis supplied). The world is spellbound as "wisdom," from where no one seems to know, is "channeled" to a decaying society. The article adds: "In 1985, Ramtha, a

Willard Regester writes from Mountain View, California, where he has practiced medicine for 30 years.
Channel, was channeled into the "Merv Griffin Show." Merv wanted to know: "What is your most important message that you want everyone on this planet to know?" Ramtha replied: "What is termed God is within your being, ... and that which is called Christ is within your being, and when you know you are God, you will find joy." What an astounding fulfillment of Chapter 34 of The Great Controversy! Does it not seem that the progression of the threefold union is proceeding in synchronous parallelism?

As thinking Seventh-day Adventist Christians, we must know that the ultimate end point of this threefold union is the disfranchisement of God's people with the ultimate death sentence as its final statement. It is exactly on this point that we must be asking ourselves how such a thing could possibly take place in our great, free society. As stated earlier, to pass a law such as this, the minds of the masses must be so manipulated and educated, that such an unthinkable law becomes thinkable.

But let us then proceed to examine the nature of the forces which are changing the unthinkable into the thinkable. And article in Christianity Today sets forth a scenario which should startle us into action. It reports that a small cadre of American Christians led by their white-bearded patriarch, Rousas Rushdoony, is suggesting a reconstruction of American society which will ultimately lead to the day when "Christians will govern using the Old Testament as the law book." As Rushdoony leads this return to a theocracy, his group lists 15 crimes that deserve capital punishment in the reconstructed society. These include not only murder and rape, but sodomy, sabbathbreaking, (emphasis supplied) apostasy, witchcraft, blasphemy, and incorrigibility in children." Rodney Clapp. "Democracy as Heresy," Christianity Today, February 20, 1987, 17-23

The world may well find it difficult to argue with the establishment of a theocracy. The problem is, who is it that will "play God" and interpret the laws? As we consider how Patriarch Rushdoony's teachings might manipulate the minds of the masses to accept the unthinkable, let us consider the following thought-provoking statements: "The question has been raised, and is now much agitated, If a theocracy was good in the time of Israel, why would not a theocratical form of government be equally good for this time?" Patriarchs and Prophets, 761, note 8. It is then pointed out that only a God who knows all can justly rule. "When men, with human frailties and passions, undertake to do this work, it needs no argument to show that the door is opened to unrestrained injustice and cruelty. The most inhuman crimes will be perpetrated, and all in the sacred name of Christ." Ibid., 765. As Mr. Rushdoony educates the minds of the masses to accept the unthinkable execution of sabbath-breakers (Sunday, of course), he is also suggesting that which will fulfill prophecy.

You may wish to argue that the sanctity of human life must undergo further denigration before such a despotic law could be passed. The sanctity of human life was well nigh erased by Charles Darwin, as he promulgated that which is now accepted as fact, namely, evolution. But for those who cling to the idea that human life has some value, Satan has other educational forces with which he molds the minds to make the unthinkable thinkable. Let us briefly explore those forces as we strive to understand the evolution of ideas in the minds of the masses which will "allow" the death sentence to become law, as the threefold union comes to its final fruition.

Today, science sets forth the undergirdings of thought of a purely mechanistic universe. Listen to a 1968 statement by Dr. Edmond R. Leash, provost of King's College, Cambridge, who wrote in the London Times, "Today, when the molecular biologists are rapidly unraveling the genetic chemistry of all living things—while the radio astronomers are deciphering the program of an evolving cosmos—all the marvels of creation are seen to be mechanisms rather than mysteries. Since even the human brain is nothing more than an immensely complicated computer, it is no longer necessary to invoke metaphysics to explain how it works. In the resulting mechanistic universe, all that remains of the divine will is the moral consciousness of man himself." As quoted by C. Everett Koop, M.D., and Francis A. Schaffler, Whatever Happened to the Human Race? (Crossway Books, 1979), 5

Once we remove man from being made in the image of God, as humanism has done, there is no compelling reason for treating people well. A long list of unthinkable realities then becomes thinkable.

Abortion has been debated, and will continue to be, both within the church and without. Not wanting to get involved in or stir the abortion debate, let me simply say, Where the sanctity of human life is held high, abortion is unthinkable, but where man is a product of an evolutionary process now being "unraveled and understood" by the humanistic scientists, abortion, as well as poor treatment of the human race as a whole, becomes thinkable. It must be understood that abortion-on-demand has an "educational dimension," or since we are here speaking of molding the minds of the masses, I should say, abortion has an "educating dimension." It is ongoing. Let me explain.

Continued on 31
The Omega

For more than 80 years the ominous "omega" prophecy of Ellen White has served warning of trouble to come. Different sources of concern have been identified through the years as likely candidates for the notorious title. Yet time—and apostasy—continue.

What does it mean? What may we expect? Do these cryptic words have valid meaning to us today? How will this omega apostasy fit in with what else we know concerning the end times? These are all good questions; though certain of our answers must be tentative, let’s look briefly at what we do know. Let’s start at the beginning—the "alpha."

"Alpha" is the Greek equivalent of our letter “A.” "Beta" is the second Greek letter, and it is from a combination of the two that we derive our English word “alphabet.” At the further end of the Greek alphabet is the "omega." Thus, when Christ states that He is the “Alpha and Omega” He also speaks of Himself as the “first and the last.” Revelation 1:11

In the early years of this century, heated controversy developed within the Seventh-day Adventist Church over the teachings of Dr. John Harvey Kellogg. Especially was his book, The Living Temple, a point of contention. Though delaying comment for a considerable time in the hope that the leading brethren of the denomination could resolve the difficulty by themselves, Ellen White eventually went clearly on record in opposition to the pantheistic sentiments of the doctor.

At first she wrote only on the general principles of the issue. Had these writings been given proper consideration, the whole question could have been laid to rest long before reaching crisis proportions. As the confusion continued, however, she became more and more specific. In October of 1903 her famous account of the fogbound vessel striking the iceberg cut short discussion of the book at the Autumn Council. But still, strong differences of opinion remained, thus necessitating more direct and pointed input from Ellen White.

It was in this setting that three statements dealing with the alpha and the omega of apostasy came from the pen of the prophet. These may be found in full context in Selected Messages, book 1, 193-208. The statements themselves are as follows:

"Be not deceived; many will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. We have now before us the alpha of this danger. The omega will be of a most startling nature.” Ibid., 197

"In the book Living Temple there is presented the alpha of deadly heresies. The omega will follow, and will be received by those who are not willing to heed the warning God has given.” Ibid., 200

"Living Temple contains the alpha of these theories. I knew that the omega would follow in a little while; and I trembled for our people.” Ibid., 203

The obvious use of the two terms to indicate a relationship between the two has, predictably, raised the obvious questions. What is the omega? How is it related to the alpha?

That the omega will be “of a startling nature” is clear. It is to be, unfortunately, successful in its efforts to ensnare those who fail to benefit from the warnings of the Spirit of Prophecy. In fact, its success seems to be the cause of Ellen White’s trembling. Beyond these few points, our knowledge of the omega must be based on our knowledge of the alpha and an understanding of the relationship implied by the terms Ellen White chose to express her thoughts.

Fortunately, though the three statements above are the only ones which deal with the omega, Ellen White and history have given us considerably more information concerning the alpha. The core element of the alpha...
was its denial of the specific personhood of God and of the reality of heavenly things. Thus God was understood to be an essence, an all-pervading "nonentity." The heavenly sanctuary—the very heart of distinctive Adventist doctrine—was reduced to "wherever God is," which amounted to everywhere in general and nowhere in particular.

Ellen White occasionally uses the terms "spiritualistic" and "spiritualism" when discussing *The Living Temple* and its teachings. This may be slightly misleading to those unfamiliar with the meaning of these words as they were used before the development of modern spiritualism in the 1850s. This meaning of making something "spiritual" rather than real and tangible is sometimes employed in the Spirit of Prophecy writings. Such is the case when Ellen White speaks of those who "spiritualize away the very truths" of the Bible. When she describes the alpha as spiritualistic because it sweeps away the foundations of the Advent message, it seems certain that this is the primary sense in which she uses the term. However, this distinction from what we normally think of as spiritualism is not as hard and fast or as significant as some would make it.

The direct involvement of satanic agencies in the experience of the alpha is clear. "When you wrote that book *The Living Temple* you were not under the inspiration of God. There was by your side the one who inspired Adam to look at God in a false light." The developments of these last days will soon become decided. When these spiritualistic deceptions are revealed to be what they really are—the secret workings of evil spirits—those who have acted a part in them will become as men who have lost their minds.

"As I am shown special things of Satan's science, and how he deceived the holy angels, I am afraid of the men who have entered into the study of the science that Satan carried into the warfare in heaven. How have you longed to be where I should not be compelled to see the same science practiced on this earth by medical practitioners! How my heart has been agonized as I have seen souls accepting the inducements held out to them to unite with those who were warring against God! When they accept the bait it seems impossible to break the spell that Satan casts over them, because the enemy works out the science of deception as he worked it out in the heavenly courts. He has worked so diligently with men in our day that he has won the game again and again."  

"The discussion ended with my having learned where Dr. Kellogg... got some, if not much of [his] pantheism. Dr. Lewis was once Mrs. Kellogg's pastor and president of Alfred University, where she got her degree. His paper, the *Sabbath Recorder*, was steeped in pantheism. It came regularly to the Kellogg home."  

Despite minor inaccuracies in Edwards' account takes on a different light

\[ \text{In view of the fact that Lewis, in his youth, had been a spiritualistic medium, Edwards' account takes on a different light} \]

\[ \text{"If permitted, the evil angels will work the minds of men until they have no mind or will of their own. They are led as the angels cast out from heaven were led...}\]

\[ \text{"Let the world go into spiritualism, into theosophy, into pantheism, if they choose. We are to have nothing to do with this deceptive branch of Satan's work."}\]

\[ \text{There is one other link to the more commonly recognized forms of spiritualism. The following testimony is from Doctor Sanford P.S. Edwards. "One day a white-bearded gentleman came in [to my classroom at Battle Creek College] and took a seat with the class. It was A.H. Lewis, D.D., LL.D., the editor of the *Sabbath Recorder*, church paper of the [seventh] D[ay] Baptists... After the class Dr. Lewis came over and shook hands and said, 'You gave a wonderful talk to your class. Is this not an unusual approach to a scientific subject like physiology?... Doctor, do you not think that you may be stretching a point, in emphasizing the exact features of God's being? He is a spirit. You talk of His hands, His feet and eyes and ears and tongue just like He were a physical being. God is a presence, an essence, He is everywhere, in the trees, in the flowers, the food we eat. Are you not in danger of getting too narrow a view of God?'..."}\]

\[ \text{wards' account (though Lewis was very influential in Alfred University he never served as president), the linking of Lewis and Kellogg is significant. That this influence was more than short-lived is probable in light of the fact that Mrs. Kellogg, a lifelong Seventh Day Baptist, had graduated from Alfred University in 1872, and completed her M.A. degree there in 1885. Lewis served as chairman of the Church History and Homiletics department from 1868 to 1892, and was prominent in Seventh Day Baptist circles.} \]

\[ \text{Taken by itself, Edwards' account would only indicate a source for Kellogg's pantheism. In view of the fact that Lewis, in his youth, had been a spiritualistic medium, it takes on a different light. Worse yet, Lewis' wording in his account of the experience compounds the problem. He said, "Under a spiritualist physician's influence I became a 'medium,' after the rude manner of those times." The evidence is inferential, but the former "rudeness" would seem to imply a more current sophistication. Though no positive connection can be made, it is worth noting that this is exactly the position being taken at that time by the recently formed (1875) Theosophical Society of America. After seeking unsuccessfully to establish ties with the}\]
various spiritualist groups current at that time, the founders of the society proceeded on their own, denouncing American spiritualism as bungling and naive. Their chosen message, as it appeared in the pages of their journal, The Theosophist, was a curious mixture of pantheism, reincarnation, meditation, and occult methodologies.

Armed with this information concerning the alpha, let’s move on to the next—and, after all, the more important—question: What does the relationship between the alpha and the omega tell us about the final apostasy?

Over the years there have been two ways of looking at this relationship between the first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet. Some have noted that the two characters represent opposite extremes. The alpha is as far in one direction as one can go while the omega is as far as one can go the other way. Using this concept as a basis for understanding the omega has prompted the expectation that, whereas the alpha was the internalization of deity, the omega might well be an ignoring of the importance of the physical health or the complete externalization of the salvation process.

The other view of the relationship is that the omega is simply the ending point of what the alpha began; not the opposite at all but like the full-grown oak that started out as a little acorn. This concept has led to an expectation of a revived and expanded form of pantheistic or spiritualistic teaching making its way into Adventist doctrine and practice. For many years now, the first of these two ways of looking at the question has received the lion’s share of attention. And the reason is obvious: who could imagine the Adventist Church being taken in by a deception which we have been so fully warned against?

Still—without being argumentative—I believe the evidence points to exactly that. Note Ellen White’s statement. “One, and another, and still another are presented to me as having been led to accept the pleasing fables that mean the sanctification of sin. Living Temple contains the alpha of a train of heresies.”

In her writings she often uses such phrases as “train of evils,” “train of circumstances,” and “train of prophecy.” Never do we find this expression to mean anything other than a progression in a single direction. It would follow that a train of heresies is nothing more than a succession of kindred errors, in this case going from bad to worse.

Again we find a similar expression—this time on a much more positive subject—which helps to understand Ellen White’s idea of the alpha and the omega. “Christ is the Alpha, the first link, and the Omega, the last link, of the gospel chain, which is welded in Revelation.” Surely, in this example at least, she is not speaking of the alpha and the omega being opposite extremes.

What then might we expect of the omega? Of primary importance is the fact that it is the last of the devil’s heresies to be brought upon the church. Knowing that the conflict is to broaden and extend till the end of time, we would expect it to be of terrible proportions. No wonder Sister White “trembled for our people.”

Since it is to be the last heresy brought upon the church, we would expect it to be closely associated with the great final test. Normally we would think of the Sunday laws as the final test, and indeed they will be involved. Yet Ellen White has also called our attention to a somewhat different focus. “The truth for this time, the third angel’s message, is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, meaning with increasing power, as we approach the great final test. This test must come to the churches in connection with the true medical missionary work, a work that has the great Physician to dictate and preside in all it comprehends.”

Why medical missionary work? What great test can that involve? “God’s Word declares that Satan will work miracles. He will make people sick, and then will suddenly remove from them his satanic power. They will then be regarded as healed. These works of apparent healing will bring Seventh-day Adventists to the test. Many who have had great light will fail to walk in the light, because they have not become one with Christ.”

May I suggest a possible scenario for the omega? For years many good and respected Adventists have failed to “become one with Christ.” Not that they were promiscuous sinners, but they simply never came to the point of accepting and following His will for them in the details of their lives. Little by little they deviated from His plan, until everything they did was contaminated to some degree with the foolishness of human wisdom. As the barriers of conscience and familiarity with the Lord’s will are slowly worn down, they drift slowly but surely into conformity with the world. They think more as the world does; they value the things the world does; they seek to solve their problems the way the world does. Satan smiles; his plan is on track. The remnant church, through its disregard of the counsel of God, is prepared to receive greater delusions.

As wider and wider discrepancies develop in the faith and practice of church members, it becomes necessary to downplay the concept of definable truth. “Situation ethics” and a thousand other ploys are presented to widen the “gray areas.” A distorted concept of love excludes that godlike concern which corrects the sinner, seeking to save his soul at any cost.
Unity is urged as the great need of the church, and soon—all unconsciously—unity is valued more highly than the truth of God. In such a climate, the devil is virtually free to introduce every degrading error he wishes, for the minds of the people have been conditioned to distrust their own judgment and understanding of God’s Word. After all, who would be so cruel as to risk driving someone from the church by saying clearly and pointedly that he was sinning?

In time, some poor soul is stricken ill. Cancer, maybe, but any terminal disease would do. No hope remains. All that modern science can offer will not avail to save the life. In such an extremity, who would not try anything and everything that offered help? Little used to seeking God’s answer, the suffering one sees nothing wrong when a friend, a registered nurse of many years’ experience, offers to “balance the energy field” of his diseased organs. She does this through a technique of “laying on of hands.” The patient does not know, perhaps does not care, that the technique in its modern form originated with a psychic by the name of Dora Kunz. It does not matter, because now he is well, cured, free from pain. And he is, he really is. But it does matter, for the gods of Ekron are being sought by the members of God’s remnant church. With clever new packaging and a pseudo-science flavor, the devil’s oldest tricks come to us now under the title of the New Age movement. The name is new, but the teaching is not. What we have before us now may be traced directly back to the Theosophical Society of a century ago.

Farfetched, you say? If only it were. But it is not, my friend. All that I have depicted, and far more, is taking place within our beloved church. Our members are experimenting with everything from “positive affirmations” to visualization to pendulum divination. I strongly urge you to write and obtain the document, *The New Age Movement and Seventh-day Adventists*. It is available from the Biblical Research Institute, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 6840 Eastern Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20012.

Many will be shocked by the story told there. Perhaps Ellen White would call it “most startling.” In any case, it contains warnings which our people must hear. I quote from page three: “The foundational belief which ties together the diversified groups of New Agers is the unbiblical world-view of pantheism. Pantheism once knocked on the Adventist door through the teachings and influence of Dr. J.H. Kellogg, superintendent of the Battle Creek Sanitarium in Michigan, as well as of others. We believe it is knocking again today in more insidious ways.”

Is this the omega? I cannot say. Is this heresy the “most startling” of them all? Is this deception the last of the last? I do not know. But I do know that we are surrounded by modern spiritualistic error, and we have, to an alarming extent, been infiltrated by these tempting doctrines of devils.

I do know that many “look for a god in humanity, and Satan personifies the one they seek. Multitudes will be so deluded through their rejection of truth, that they will accept the counterfeit; and humanity will be haled as God.”

And I, for one, believe that there is today a clear application of Ellen White’s concerns of eighty years ago. “The sentiments in Living Temple re-

We are surrounded by modern spiritualistic error, and we have, to an alarming extent, been infiltrated by these tempting doctrines of devils

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1 See Manuscript Release 320, 3
2 See The Great Controversy, 675
3 Manuscript Release 907, 17
4 Battle Creek Letters, 124, 128
5 Ibid., 109
6 Quoted in Emmett K. Vande Vere, *Windows, Selected Readings in Seventh-day Adventist Church History 1844-1922*, 251-252
8 Manuscript Release 856, 1
9 Ibid., 811, 6
11 Selected Messages, book 2, 53
12 For example, the new stop-smoking plan, “Breathe-Free,” contains the following: “Napoleon Hill once said, ‘Whatever the mind can conceive and believe, it can achieve.’ It is a truth that has been demonstrated over and over again.” Consider that Hill states, “Now and again I have had evidence that unseen friends hover over me, guarding the personality of God have been received even by men who have had a long experience in the truth. When such men consent to eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, we are no longer to regard the subject as a matter to be treated with the greatest delicacy. That those whom we thought sound in the faith should have failed to discern the specious, deadly influence of this science of evil, should alarm us as nothing else has alarmed us.”
13 “The School has Masters who can dissemble themselves and travel instantly to any place they choose... to give knowledge directly, by voice...”
14 “You have earned the right to reveal a Supreme Secret to others,” said the vibrant voice. “You have been under the guidance of the Great School... Now you must give the world a blueprint...” Napoleon Hill, *Grow Rich With Peace of Mind*, (Ballantine Books, 1967) 158-160
15 And what was that Supreme Secret? “Anything the human mind can conceive, the human mind can achieve.” Ibid., 176. Emphasis in original.
16 Ellen G. White *Paraphrases in the Concordance*, vol. 2, 462
17 Battle Creek Letters, 79-80

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July 1988 Our Firm Foundation 27
Coming Events

Cast Their Shadows Before
The Desire of Ages, 636

Ellen G. White

There will be a series of events revealing that God is master of the situation. The truth will be proclaimed in clear, unmistakable language.” Testimonies, vol. 9, 96

“When the reasoning of philosophy has banished the fear of God’s judgments; when religious teachers are pointing forward to long ages of peace and prosperity… then it is that sudden destruction cometh upon them.” Patriarchs and Prophets, 104

“Solemn thought for our churches! solemn indeed, for every individual! Marvelous is the patience and forbearance of God; but ‘except thou repent,’ it will be exhausted; the churches, our institutions, will go from weakness to weakness, from cold formality to deadness, while they are saying, ‘I am rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing.’ " Review and Herald Extra, December 23, 1890

“While will soon be a sudden change in God’s dealings. He is putting under restraint His own attributes. Who is prepared for the sudden change that will take place in God’s dealing with sinful men?” Fundamentals of Christian Education, 356-357

“The living righteous will receive the seal of God prior to the close of probation.” Selected Messages, book 1, 66

“Before the work is closed up and the sealing of God’s people is finished, we shall receive the outpouring of the Spirit of God. Angels from heaven will be in our midst. The present is a fitting up time for heaven when we must walk in full obedience to all the commands of God.” Ibid., 111

“When probation ends, it will come suddenly, unexpectedly— at a time when we are least expecting it. But we can have a clear record in heaven today, and know that God accepts us; and finally, if faithful, we shall be gathered into the kingdom of heaven.” The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 7, 989

“Obedience or disobedience is the question to be decided by the whole world… There will be but two classes. Every character will be fully developed; and all will show whether they have chosen the side of loyalty or that of rebellion.” The Desire of Ages, 763

“Protestants will work upon the rulers of the land to make laws to restore the lost ascendancy of the man of sin, who sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Roman Catholic principles will be taken under the care and protection of the state. The Protestant governments will reach a strange pass. They will be converted to the world. They will also, in their separation from God, work to make falsehood and apostasy from God the law of the nation.” Review and Herald, June 25, 1897

“As the question of enforcing Sunday observance is widely agitated… the third [angel’s] message will produce an effect which it could not have had before… As the time comes for it to be given with greater power, the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to His service. The laborers will be qualified rather by the union of His Spirit than by the training of literary institutions.” The Great Controversy, 604

“Many of the rulers are those whom Satan controls; but… God has His agents, even among the rulers. And some of them will yet be converted to the truth. A few of God’s agents will have power to bear down a great mass of evil. Thus the work will go on until the third message has done its work, and at the loud cry of the third angel, these agents will have an opportunity to receive the truth, and some of them will be converted, and endure with the saints through the time of trouble.” Maranatha, 202

“A time is coming when the law of God is, in a special sense, to be made void in our land. The rulers of our nation will, by legislative enactments, enforce the Sunday law, and thus God’s people be brought into great peril. When our nation, in its legislative councils, shall enact laws to bind the consciences of men in regard to their religious privileges, enforcing Sunday observance, and bringing oppressive power to bear against those who keep the seventh-day Sabbath, the law of
God will, to all intents and purposes, be made void in our land; and national apostasy will be followed by national ruin." The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 7, 977

"The class that have provoked the displeasure of Heaven will charge all their troubles upon those whose obedience to God's commandments is a perpetual reproof to transgressors. It will be declared that men are offending God by the violation of the Sunday Sabbath; that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced; and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troublers of the people, preventing their restoration to divine favor and temporal prosperity. Thus the accusation urged of old against the servant of God will be repeated and upon grounds equally well established: 'And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim.' 1 Kings 18:17-18. As the wrath of the people shall be excited by false charges, they will pursue a course toward God's ambassadors very similar to that which apostate Israel pursued toward Elijah." The Great Controversy, 590

"Last Friday morning, just before I awoke, a very impressive scene was presented before me. I seemed to awake from sleep but was not in my home. From the windows I could behold a terrible conflagration. Great balls of fire were falling upon houses, and from these balls fiery arrows were flying in every direction. It was impossible to check the fires that were kindled, and many places were being destroyed. The terror of the people was indescribable. After a time I awoke and found myself at home. Evangelism, 29

"Oh, that God's people had a sense of the impending destruction of thousands of cities, now almost given to idolatry." Ibid.

"We have no time to lose. The end is near. The passage from place to place to spread the truth will soon be hedged with dangers on the right hand and on the left. Everything will be placed to obstruct the way of the Lord's messengers, so that they will not be able to do that which it is possible for them to do now. We must look our work fairly in the face, and advance as fast as possible in aggressive warfare." Ibid., 30-31

"The Lord can do more in one hour than we can do in a whole lifetime, and when He sees that His people are fully consecrated, let me tell you, a great work will be done in a short time and which the Saviour uttered; he heals the diseases of the people, and then, in his assumed character of Christ, he claims to have changed the Sabbath to Sunday, and commands all to hallow the day which he has blessed. He declares that those who persist in keeping holy the seventh day are blaspheming his name by refusing to listen to his angels sent to them with light and truth. This is the strong, almost overmastering delusion. Like the Samaritans who were deceived by Simon Magus, the multitudes, from the least to the greatest, give heed to these sorceries,

The most dangerous snares which Satan has prepared for the church will come through its own members who do not love God

the message of truth is to be carried into the dark places of the earth, where it has never been proclaimed." Manuscript Release 331, 21

"As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ. The church has long professed to look to the Saviour's advent as the consummation of her hopes. Now the great deceiver will make it appear that Christ has come. In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in the Revelation. Revelation 1:13-15. The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out upon the air: 'Christ has come! Christ has come!' The people prostrate themselves in adoration before him, while he lifts up his hands and pronounces a blessing upon them, as Christ blessed His disciples when He was upon the earth. His voice is soft and subdued, yet full of melody. In gentle, compassionate tones he presents some of the same gracious, heavenly truths saying: This is 'the great power of God.' [Acts 8:10]" The Great Controversy, 624-625

"A power from beneath is working to bring about the last great scenes in the drama—Satan coming as Christ, and working with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in those who are binding themselves together in secret societies." Testimonies, vol. 8, 28

"Satanic agencies are becoming more determined in their rebellion against God. The trades-unions will be the cause of the most terrible violence that has ever been seen among human beings." Manuscript Release 214, 22

"Last night I slept only three hours, from eight to eleven. Oh, how my soul longs to see the people of God zealous in repentance. I entreat them to prepare to meet their God. Can they not see in the rapid growth of trades-unions, the fulfilling of the signs of the time? Those forming the labor unions are determined to have their own way. Violence and death mean nothing to them if their unions are opposed." Ibid., 21

"These unions are one of the signs of the last days. Men are binding up in
bundles ready to be burned. They may be church members, but while they belong to these unions, they cannot possibly keep the commandments of God; for to belong to these unions means to disregard the entire Decalogue.” Maranatha, 182

“God calls for men and means. Those who cannot see the signs of the times in this wicked and adulterous generation will be found with those who perish under the plagues poured from the vials of God’s wrath.” Manuscript Release 931, 1

“If men are so easily misled now, how will they stand when Satan shall personate Christ, and work miracles? Who will be unmoved by his misrepresentations then—professing to be Christ when it is only Satan assuming the person of Christ, and apparently working the works of Christ? What will hold God’s people from giving their allegiance to false chists? ‘Go not after them.’ [Luke 17:23] Selected Messages, book 2, 394-395; see also 58

“In this age antichrist will appear as the true Christ, and then the law of God will be fully made void in the nations of our world. Rebellion against God’s holy law will be fully ripe. But the true leader of all this rebellion is Satan clothed as an angel of light. Men will be deceived and will exalt him to the place of God, and defy him. But Omnipotence will interpose, and to the apostate churches that unite in the exaltation of Satan, the sentence will go forth,  Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.’ [Revelation 18:8]” Testimonies to Ministers, 62

“Do not forget that the most dangerous snares which Satan has prepared for the church will come through its own members who do not love God supremely or their neighbor as themselves. Satan is continually striving to wedge himself in between brethren. He seeks to gain control of those who claim to believe the truth, but who are unconvinced; and when he can influence these, through their own carnal nature, to unite with him in trying to thwart the purposes of God, then he is exultant.” Testimonies, vol. 5, 477

“There will be seducing spirits and doctrines of devils in the midst of the church, and these evil influences will increase; but hold fast the beginning of your confidence firm unto the end.” Manuscript Release 621, 2

“Before the great trouble shall come upon the world such as has never been since there was nation, those who have faltered and who would ignorantly lead in unsafe paths will reveal this before the real vital test, the last proving, comes, so that whatsoever they may say will not be regarded as voicing the True Shepherd. The time the earth, from the waters of the deep—not one is overlooked.” Manuscript Release 621, 5

“The coming of the Lord is at the door. Well, we understand what being at the door means. When one stands at the door, all there is to do is to enter.

“Now in regard to the coming of the Son of man. This will not take place until after the mighty earthquake shakes the earth. After the people have heard the voice of God they are in despair and trouble such as never was since there was a nation, and in this the people of God will suffer affliction.

The Lord will have a people as true as steel, and with a faith as firm as the granite rock to do a special, a glorious work

of our educating will soon be over.” Ellen G. White 1888 Materials, 1002

“As we near the judgment, all will manifest their true character, and it will be made plain to what company they belong. The sieve is moving. Let us not say: Stay Thy hand, O God. The church must be purged, and it will be.” Testimonies, vol. 1, 100

“But the days of purification of the church are hastening on space. God will have a people pure and true.” Ibid., vol. 5, 80

“He will have a clean and holy church.” Ibid., vol. 1, 99

“God’s love for His church is infinite. He will purify His church even as He purificed the temple at the beginning and close of His ministry on earth.” Ibid., vol. 9, 228

“The Lord will have a people as true as steel, and with a faith as firm as the granite rock. They are to be His witnesses in the world. His instrumentality to do a special, a glorious work in the day of His preparation.” Ibid., vol. 4, 594-595

“The just... shall come forth from all parts of the earth, from rocky caverns, from dungeons, from caves of

The clouds of heaven will clash, and there will be darkness. Then that voice comes from heaven and the clouds begin to roll back like a scroll, and there is the bright, clear sign of the Son of man. The children of God know what that cloud means.

“The sound of music is heard, and as it nears, the graves are opened and the dead are raised and there are thousands of thousands and ten thousand times ten thousand of angels that compose that glory, and encircle the Son of man. Those who have acted the most prominent part in the rejection and crucifixion of Christ come forth to see Him as He is, and those who have rejected Christ come up and see the saints glorified, and it is at that time that the saints are changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, and are caught up to meet their Lord in the air. The very ones who placed upon Him the purple robe, and put the crown of thorns upon His brow, and those who put the nails through His hands and feet, look upon Him and be afraid. And this is the very sign of the coming of the Son of man.” Manuscript Release 735, 3-4
Threefold Union
continued from 23

Since abortion-on-demand became legal in the 1970s, it is safe to say that 20,000,000 children have been murdered in utero who would now be between one and seventeen years of age. It follows then, does it not, that with all those unwanted children out of the way, child abuse should be at an all-time low? Why, then, is the very opposite the case? It is because of the “educating dimension” of abortion which removes the sanctity of human life from the minds of potential parents and replaces it with the learned thought, “If I can murder my child before giving birth, what does it matter if I kill him around a little after he is born?” So the unthinkable becomes thinkable.

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In January, 1978, Francis Crick, another Nobel laureate, was quoted in the Pacific News Service as saying, “No newborn infant should be declared human until it has passed certain tests regarding its genetic endowment and if it fails these tests, it forfeits the right to live.” Ibid., 40

In Ideals of Life, Millard S. Everett, who was professor of philosophy and humanities at Oklahoma A & M writes, “My personal feeling—and I don’t ask anyone to agree with me—is that eventually, when public opinion is prepared for it, no child should be admitted into the society of the living who would be certain to suffer any social handicap—for example, any physical or mental defect that would prevent marriage or would make others tolerate his company only from a sense of mercy.” He further adds, “This would imply not only eugenic sterilization, but also euthanasia due to accidents of birth which cannot be foreseen.” Ibid.

As you can see the progression of ideas is unrelenting—abortion, infanticide, and finally euthanasia.

The progression of ideas is unrelenting—abortion, infanticide, and finally euthanasia.

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